



# VAN NUYS AIRPORT

## *flight tracks*

A COMMUNITY UPDATE ON THE LATEST AIRPORT NEWS • VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2 • July 2010

## A Message from the Airport Manager

Dear Neighbors,

I'd first like to introduce myself as the new manager of Van Nuys Airport (VNY); I'm pleased to be here and look forward to meeting more of our neighbors in the coming months.

As I also continue to serve as airport manager at LA/Ontario International Airport (ONT), my colleague Kim Ellis will oversee the daily operations at VNY in times of my absence.

Together we pledge to continue the terrific work performed under the leadership of VNY's former airport manager, Selena Birk, who moved to Los Angeles International Airport earlier this year for a new assignment.

Given that we're starting to see positive and very welcome signs of economic recovery, we will move forward to further position VNY to meet the current and future needs of the general aviation community, while serving as responsible stewards and a valuable resource for our Valley neighbors.

One of our major projects, as you know, includes the development of a new 30-acre site to house propeller aircraft. The next step involves completion of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process. Once finished, the CEQA determination will be available for a period of public comment.

When final, the CEQA determination and ground lease will be presented to the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners and the Los Angeles City Council for approvals.

We look forward to keeping you informed on the status of this project, with its projected operational, safety, environmental and community benefits. If you have any questions or concerns on the propeller aircraft park development, please contact VNY Superintendent of Operations Brian Pecenka at **(818) 909-3528** or **[info@lawa.org](mailto:info@lawa.org)**. We welcome your questions and feedback.

Sincerely,  
*Jess Romo*  
Van Nuys Airport Manager



*New Van Nuys Airport Manager  
Jess Romo*

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## Propeller Aircraft Park: What Benefits You Can Expect

The 30-acre propeller aircraft park under development at VNY, located at the former Air National Guard site between Roscoe Boulevard and Stagg Street, is expected to bring many benefits to improve the airport and the surrounding community. Here's a look at some of these enhancements, which will occur pending final approvals of the project.

### Operational and Safety Benefits:

- State-of-the-art hangars and facilities, including a self-service AvGas fuel facility
- Reduction in the “blending” of jet, helicopter and propeller aircraft operations, and a corresponding reduction in runway crossings and taxi duration of propeller aircraft
- Implementation of a “dual taxi lane” leading into and out of the propeller aircraft park, providing increased efficiency and further separation of aircraft
- Lower fuel vehicle operations at the airport

### Community and Environmental Benefits:

- Landscaping and beautification of both Balboa Boulevard and Stagg Street
- Street-side public safety improvements, such as new sidewalks and enhanced street lighting
- Reduced emissions due to shorter taxi duration and decline in fuel truck usage (as a result of the self-service AvGas fuel facility)
- Less noise impact because of reduced taxi duration and a greater concentration of propeller aircraft into one area

VNY looks forward to the completion of this project to preserve and meet the needs of the propeller aircraft community while bringing improvements to the surrounding area.

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## Friends of Van Nuys Airport Invites New Members

If you're interested in learning more about aviation, and in educating the public about VNY's benefits, services and amenities, you're invited to join the Friends of Van Nuys Airport.

The Friends meet once a month—with the group to mark its first anniversary in July—to connect with new aviation enthusiasts, catch up with old Friends and learn invaluable information about the aviation industry from guest speakers. In addition,

the Friends take group field trips to aviation-related facilities and receive invites to private airport special events.

Meetings of the Friends of Van Nuys Airport take place the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Van Nuys FlyAway second-floor conference room at 7610 Woodley Ave. No RSVP is required. For questions or more information, call **(818) 909-3529**.



*Van Nuys Airport Manager Jess Romo speaks to a meeting of the Friends of Van Nuys Airport.*

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## LA City Council Approves Stage 1 and 2 Aircraft Phaseout at VNY

In a 13-0 vote in February, the Los Angeles City Council approved a seven-year phaseout of Stage 1 and 2 aircraft at VNY as part of ongoing efforts to reduce noise levels around the airport.

This means that fixed-wing aircraft with a certificated noise rating of 85 decibels (dB) or more at takeoff no longer can use the airport. The maximum noise levels will gradually be reduced until 2016, when the aircrafts' certificated noise level cannot exceed 77 dB.

The ordinance exempts military aircraft, government-owned emergency aircraft and life flights. The ordinance also exempts aircraft certified as Stage 3 or 4 by the Federal Aviation Administration, certain historic aircraft, aircraft maintenance, and a one-time exemption for aircraft covered by the ordinance that are permanently departing VNY after the implementation date.



*A new City of Los Angeles ordinance will further reduce noise levels from aircraft at VNY.*

VNY already restricts Stage 2 aircraft from departing between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and all aircraft with certificated noise levels of 74 dB or above from departing the airport between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

VNY today dedicates more resources than ever to minimize the impacts associated with airport operations. VNY's noise management program illustrates the airport's community response efforts as well as continued diligence toward achieving effective noise reduction at the source.

To learn more about VNY's noise management efforts, and to access the online WebTrak flight operations and noise complaint entry system, visit [www.lawa.aero/vny](http://www.lawa.aero/vny) and click on "Noise Management" under "Quick Links."

## Innovative Teachers, Exceptional Students Earn Rewards

VNY, the Rotary Club of Van Nuys and City Councilmember Tony Cárdenas recently awarded three educational mini-grants to local middle school teachers, while VNY and the Rotary Club joined together to present four top-achieving middle school students with \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds.



*A group of 2010 middle school Young Achievers receives certificates of recognition from VNY and the Rotary Club of Van Nuys, joined by City Councilmember Tony Cárdenas (back center).*

The 2010 Teacher Mini-Grant Program provided one \$500 grant to LaRue Fernandez and Kathryn De Sensi (Robert Frost Middle School in Granada Hills), one \$300 grant to Mark Rickertsen (Vista Middle School in Van Nuys), and one \$200 grant to Janette Lopez (Ernest Lawrence Middle School in Chatsworth). The recipients will use the grants to implement educational program ideas that include aviation and community service.

Through the Young Achievers Program, VNY and the Rotary Club annually recognize and reward exceptional area middle school students who excel in academics, athletics, the arts or community service/leadership. This year 30 students received acknowledgement through the program, with the top student in each category earning a U.S. Savings Bond funded by the Rotary Club.

Parents, teachers and community organizations gathered to honor the high-achieving innovative teachers and middle school students in the San Fernando Valley.



*(Front row, left to right with plaques): Local teachers Kathryn De Sensi, Mark Rickertsen, LaRue Fernandez (to Rickertsen's right, without plaque) and Janette Lopez earn recognition as 2010 Teacher Mini-Grant recipients.*

"Congratulations to the students and teachers recognized," said VNY Airport Manager Jess Romo. "It is spirit, drive and dedication like theirs that make our schools better."

For more information on all of the airport's education programs, visit [www.lawa.aero/vny](http://www.lawa.aero/vny) and click on the "Educational Programs" link under "Information" in the left side drop-down list.



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# Community Calendar

## Free Aviation Careers Education (ACE) Academy

July 26-30, 2010, for middle school students (grades 6-8)

Aug. 9-13, 2010, for high school students (grades 9-12)

This free weeklong motivational program is designed to educate students about airport operations at both VNY and Los Angeles International Airport, as well as career and technical opportunities in the aviation industry. It is open to all middle school and high school students, with priority given to those in the neighboring areas of VNY. Students are selected based on desire to learn about aviation. For an application form and more information, visit [www.lawa.aero/vny](http://www.lawa.aero/vny) or call (818) 909-3529.

## Team LAWA/VNY Donation Drive for School Supplies

August-September 2010

This donation drive, spearheaded by VNY's Team LAWA (Los Angeles World Airports) volunteers, will collect classroom supplies like pencils, erasers, rulers and more to benefit local elementary school students. For more information and to make a donation, call VNY at (818) 909-3529.

## Taste of Encino

Oct. 10, 2010

VNY will have a booth at this annual event, from which a portion of the proceeds benefit area schools and community betterment projects.

## Sherman Oaks Chamber Street Fair

Oct. 17, 2010

VNY will be a sponsor of this annual community event that attracts more than 80,000 visitors and generates funds for local public elementary and middle schools.

## VNY Airport Tours

Ongoing

VNY invites groups of 15 or more to participate in our award-winning airfield tour program. Join our experienced airport guides for a 90-minute journey through aviation past and present to discover the airport's rich history, witness daily operations and view a variety of aircraft. Tours are offered to children (first grade and up) and adults on weekdays and select Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. To schedule a tour, call (818) 909-3529.

For more information about upcoming events and programs, visit [www.lawa.aero/vny](http://www.lawa.aero/vny) or call (818) 909-3529.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.